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SFW

Sterne Kessler Goldstein Fox
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Donald J. Featherstone
Timothy J. Shea, Jr
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffrey T. Helvey
Heidi L. Kraus
Eldora L. Ellison
Thomas C. Fiala
Donald R. Banowit
Peter A. Jackman
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Brian J. Del Buono
Virgil Lee Beaston
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Rae Lynn P. Guest

Daniel A. Klein
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael D. Specht
Tracy L. Muller
Jon E. Wright
LuAnne M. DeSantis
Ann E. Summerfield
Helene C. Carlson
Cynthia M. Bouchez
Timothy A. Doyle
Gaby L. Longsworth
Lori A. Gordon
Nicole D. Dretar
Ted J. Ebersole
Laura A. Vogel
Bryan S. Wade
Aaron L. Schwartz
Shannon A. Carroll*

Wesley W. Jones*
Matthew E. Kelley*
Michelle K. Holoubek*
Marsha A. Rose*

Registered Patent Agents•
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Matthew J. Dowd
Katrina Yujian Pei Quach
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Teresa A. Colella
Victoria S. Rutherford
Simon J. Elliott
Julie A. Heider
Mita Mukherjee
Scott M. Woodhouse

Christopher J. Walsh
Liliana Di Nola-Baron
Peter A. Socarras
Jeffrey Mills
Danielle L. Letting

Of Counsel
Kenneth C. Bass III
Marvin C. Guthrie

*Admitted only in Maryland
+Admitted only in Virginia
•Practice Limited to Federal Agencies



January 20, 2006

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 772-8831
INTERNET ADDRESS:
JWEAVER@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 2876

Attn: Mail Stop AF

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 10/693,687; Filed: October 27, 2003
For: **Optimization of a Binary Tree Traversal With Secure Communications**
Inventors: POWELL *et al.*
Our Ref: 1689.0320001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and

2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Jeffrey S. Weaver
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 45,608

RES/JSW:apg
Enclosures
487756_1.DOC

OIPE IAP13 JAN 20 2006 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure – Art Unit 2876

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Confirmation No.: 8675
POWELL *et al.*	Art Unit: 2876
Appl. No.: 10/693,687	Examiner: Kim, Ahshik
Filed: October 27, 2003	Atty. Docket: 1689.0320001
For: **Optimization of a Binary Tree Traversal With Secure Communications**	

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated December 13, 2005, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.